

A new species of the genus *Areas* WALKER, 1855 from Laos and Thailand (Noctuoidea, Erebidae, Arctiinae)

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Abstract: A new species of the genus *Areas* WALKER, 1855 is described from Laos and Thailand: *A. aquila* sp. n., related to *A. galactina* VAN DER HOEVEN, 1840 from SE Asia. *A. aquila* sp. n. is evidently a close relative of *A. galactina* and differs in the 8th abdominal segment and in the male genitalia figured here.

Eine neue Art der Gattung *Areas* WALKER, 1855 von Laos und Thailand (Noctuoidea, Erebidae, Arctiinae)

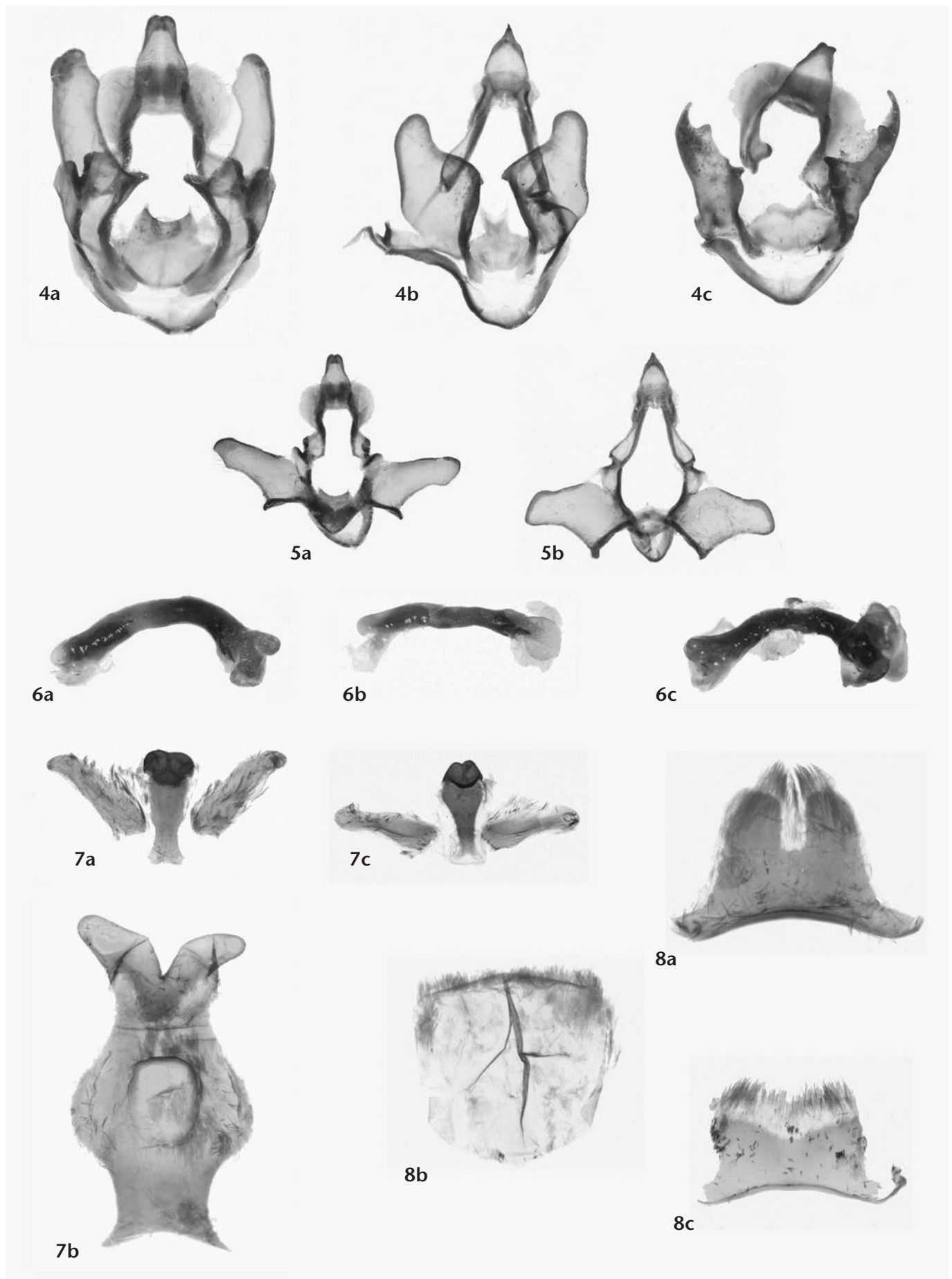
Zusammenfassung: Eine neue Art der Gattung *Areas* WALKER, 1855 wird von Laos und Thailand beschrieben: *A. aquila* sp. n. Die neue Art ist ähnlich zu *A. galactina* VAN DER HOEVEN, 1840 aus Südostasien. *A. aquila* sp. n. ist offenbar ein naher Verwandter dieser Art und unterscheidet sich besonders in der Ausbildung des 8. Abdominalsegments und der männlichen Genitalarmatur, die hier abgebildet werden.

Introduction

The genus *Areas* was described by WALKER (1855) for *A. orientalis* WALKER, 1855 which was later interpreted as a subspecies of *A. galactina* VAN DER HOEVEN, 1840. *Areas galactina* is a well-known and often common species distributed throughout Asia, and 10 subspecies were defined by INOUE (1984) and DUBATOLOV et al. (2009). According to them, in Laos and north Thailand ssp. *inouei* DUBATOLOV, HAYNES & KISHIDA, 2009 is to be found. During a trip of the senior author to north Laos in v. 2010, two specimens of *Areas* were collected exhibiting some features different from the usual *A. galactina inouei* collected sympatrically. The genitalia of these ♂♂ were



Figs. 1–3: Specimens of *Areas* spp., ♂♂; a = upperside, b = underside. Figs. 1a, 1b: *A. galactina*, holotype, north Laos. Figs. 2a, 2b: *A. aquila*, north Laos. Figs. 3a, 3b: *A. imperialis*, Nepal.



Figs. 4–8: Male genitalia and pregenital segments of *Areas* spp., localities as in specimens. — **Figs. 4a–c** (genitalia closed), **Figs. 5a–b** (genitalia opened), ventral views. — **Figs. 4a, 5a:** *A. galactina inouei*. **Figs. 4b, 5b:** *A. aquila* sp. n. **Fig. 4c:** *A. imperialis*. — **Figs. 6a–c:** Phalli of *Areas* spp. **Fig. 6a:** *A. galactina inouei*. **Fig. 6b:** *A. aquila* sp. n. **Fig. 6c:** *A. imperialis*. — **Figs. 7–8:** Pregenital segments. **Fig. 7a–c:** 8th sternite, **Fig. 8a–c:** 8th tergite of *Areas* spp. **Figs. 7a, 8a:** *A. galactina inouei*. **Figs. 7b, 8b:** *A. aquila* sp. n. **Figs. 7c, 8c:** *A. imperialis*. — Different scales.

found to be distinctive from *A. galactina*. A few further specimens of the new species have been collected by the junior author in Thailand.

Areas aquila sp. n.

(Figs. 2a, 2b.)

Holotype ♂: N. Laos, Xienkhouang Prov., 15 km east Phou Khoung, 1200 m, 2. v. 2011, leg. NAKAO, CBM (in Natural History Museum and Institute, Chiba, Japan).

Paratypes (in total 5 ♂♂): 1 ♂, Laos, same data as holotype, in coll. NAKAO. — **Thailand**: 2 ♂♂, N. Thailand, Lampang, Mae Chaem, 1453 m, 18°56.119' N, 99°23.481' E, 9. v. 2008, leg. K. ČERNÝ. 2 ♂♂ W. Thailand, Tak, Doi Mussoe, 821 m, 16° 45.317' N, 98°55.438' E, 11. v. 2008, leg. K. ČERNÝ. All 4 paratypes from Thailand in coll. K. ČERNÝ in Innsbruck, Austria.

Etymology: The species name is derived from the dark colouring (AQUILUS, -A, -UM [Latin]: burnt, blackish) of the forewing in comparison to *A. galactina*.

Diagnosis

The head is yellow, palpi are red with black terminal segment. Length of forewing 30–34 mm, wingspan 64–70 mm. The white ground colour of the forewings is suffused with brown and marked with the dark brown lines of subbasal, median and postmedian fascies. The subbasal one is distinct from the median one and sharply angled, nearly rectangular. The antennae of ♂♂ are black and rather similar to those of *A. galactina inouei* DUBATOLOV, HAYNES & KISHIDA, 2009: serrate along the anterior edge and pectinate along the posterior margin. The hindwings are more rounded and smaller than in *A. galactina* VAN DER HOEVEN, 1840. The ground colour of the hindwings is yellow with a brownish touch, at the base paler, with three submarginal dark spots and another one in the median area near the inner margin.

♂ genitalia. The uncus is sharply pointed. Valves are short and wider than in *A. galactina*. The phallus is almost straight. The shape and structure of 8th sternite is quite different being very big with two finger-like structures. Therefore, the 8th sternite almost covers the entire ♂ genitalia. The finger-like structures could be recognized easily without dissection of genitalia. The 8th tergite is simple and not bilobed.

The four specimens collected 2008 in north Thailand by the junior author show the same characteristics.

The female is not yet known.

Comparison with similar species

Areas galactina inouei DUBATOLOV, HAYNES & KISHIDA, 2009

(Figs. 1a, 1b.)

This subspecies of *A. galactina* is known from China (Yunnan, Sichuan), north Vietnam, north Laos and

north Thailand. The species is on average larger than *A. aquila* sp. n. (length of forewing 33–35 mm, wingspan 70–75 mm), has a red or rosy red head, the ground colour of the forewings is creamy white and the subbasal fascia is usually bent but not angled. The ground colour of the hindwings varies in north Thailand considerably showing always a red touch at the base and the margin turning yellow. The additional black spot near the apex of the hindwing typical for *A. aquila* sp. n. is in *A. galactina* rare and usually poorly developed.

Genitalia: The uncus of *A. galactina* is terminally rounded and slightly bilobed, the phallus is bent. The 8th sternite lobes have two rounded structures. The 8th tergite is apparently bilobed.

Areas imperialis (KOLLAR, 1844)

(Figs. 3a, 3b.)

Distribution. North India, Nepal (Himalaya).

The species has completely different wing pattern elements, and there is no possible confusion with the previous two species.

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